

Claims 1 – 12 (Cancel)

Claim 13 (Amended) An instrument for manipulating a vessel in a patient comprising: a working head shaped to define a working space in the tissue of a patient; and a first manipulator for manipulating a vessel located proximate the working space, the first manipulator having a retracted position and an extended position, the first manipulator disposed at least partially within the working space when in the retracted position; a handle; a shaft attached to the handle at a proximal end and attached to the working head at a distal end; at least a first actuator operably connected to the first manipulator for moving the first manipulator from the retracted position to the extended position; a first movable rack attached to the first actuator; and a first pinion engaged with the rack, the first pinion being connected to the proximal end of the first rod; and
[The retractor of claim 12, comprising] a first wire having a proximal end attached to the first actuator and a distal end attached to the first rack.

Claim 14 (Amended) An instrument for manipulating a vessel in a patient comprising: a working head shaped to define a working space in the tissue of a patient; and a first manipulator for manipulating a vessel located proximate the working space, the first manipulator having a retracted position and an extended position, the first manipulator disposed at least partially within the working space when in the retracted position; a handle; a shaft attached to the handle at a proximal end and attached to the working head at a distal end; at least a first actuator operably connected to the first manipulator for moving the first manipulator from the retracted position to the extended position;

a first movable rack attached to the first actuator; and a first pinion engaged with the rack, the first pinion being connected to the proximal end of the first rod; and

[The retractor of claim 12, wherein] the first actuator is slidably connected to the handle and the first movable rack and the first pinion are disposed within the handle.

Claims 15 – 24 (Cancel)

Claim 25 (Originally Presented) An instrument for manipulating a vessel in a patient comprising: a working head shaped to define a working space in the tissue of a patient; a first manipulator disposed within the working space having at least a first portion and a second portion, the first and second portion connected by an intermediate portion; and a second manipulator disposed within the working space having a mating portion configured to be disposed between the first and second portion of the first manipulator when the first and second manipulators are in the stowed position.

Claim 26 (Originally Presented) The instrument of claim 25, wherein the second manipulator comprise at least a third portion configured such that the mating portion and the third portion are interlaced with the first and second portion of the first manipulator when the first and second manipulators are in the stowed position.

Claims 27 – 30 (Cancel)